Two ETFs Looking For a Revival

As we approach the waning half of the second quarter, there are a couple of ETFs that would likely prefer to put the first-half behind them.

The iShares Dow Jones U.S. Healthcare Provider Fund(IHF - Cramer's Take - Stockpickr) and the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Fund(PBW - Cramer's Take - Stockpickr) represent two sectors of the market that experienced particularly rough going in the early part of the year.

Year to date, these ETFs are down 22.4% and 17%, respectively.

While the <u>Healthcare</u> Provider fund has remained relatively flat over the past couple of months, the Clean Energy fund has begun to regain momentum in the past few weeks. It has rebounded 5.1% in the last month.

Will this reversal continue? Will the healthcare providers be brought back to life?

A Brighter Outlook?

The clean energy play has proven to be a rocky road as many players in this space are chasing lofty expectations. It appears that there is a fair amount of upside potential in the sector though.

"Some of the clean energy technologies are not extremely <u>cost-effective</u> yet," concedes Tony Welch, a portfolio manager at Sarasota Capital Strategies who specializes in ETFs.

Welch reminds investors to remain patient with the WilderHill Clean Energy fund. He thinks the ETF is a good way for investors to achieve diversity within the sector. His firm got into the fund the day that it came out in 2005.

"It's a long-term trend," he says. "Many of the underlying securities in the ETF are pretty volatile on their own though."

his ETF contains a host of solar names among its top holdings, including **Suntech Power Holdings**(<u>STP</u> - <u>Cramer's Take</u> - <u>Stockpickr</u>), **Evergreen Solar**(<u>ESLR</u> - <u>Cramer's Take</u> - <u>Stockpickr</u>), **JA Solar Holdings**(<u>JASO</u> - <u>Cramer's Take</u> - <u>Stockpickr</u>) and **First Solar**(<u>FSLR</u> - <u>Cramer's Take</u> - <u>Stockpickr</u>).

Welch notes that some of these companies are making big strides in their operations, but their stocks have become subject to speculation at times.

"First Solar has become a favorite of the momentum players," he says.

The fund also holds some fuel cell names such as **Energy Conversion Devices**(<u>ENER</u> - <u>Cramer's Take</u> - <u>Stockpickr</u>) and **FuelCell Energy**(FCEL - Cramer's Take - Stockpickr).

Welch finds this area of clean energy to be especially attractive. "Fuel cells are intriguing because ethanol is proving to not be a large-scale viable solution as an alternative energy source," he said.

For investors looking to get into clean energy, Welch also likes the **PowerShares Global Clean Energy Fund** (PBD - Cramer's Take - Stockpickr) due to the international exposure that the ETF affords its investors. The <u>fund</u> has top holdings that include **REpower Systems**, **Nordex** and **Q-Cells**.